

Cohasset Mariner

The Mariner [and supplements] is a paid circulation newspaper published every Thursday at 541 Plain St., Marshfield, Mass. 02050 for and about the residents of Cohasset. Telephone 383-6321 or 837-3500. Mailing address: Box 71, Cohasset, Mass. 02025. Branch office at 22 Elm St., Cohasset, Mass. 02025. Application to mail at second class rates pending at Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

Publishers: David S. Cutler & Michael H. Stearns

General Manager: Michael Stearns
Managing Editor
Advertising Manager
Make-up Editor

Editor: David Cutler
Bucky Yardume
Jo-anne Morris

Margaret Smoragiewicz

Editorial Staff: Judith Epstein, Nancy Burns, Nina Belsan, Joan Pinkham, Lois Martin and David Bond. Photographers: Lindy Blaisdell and Gregory Derr. Advertising Staff: Trisha Massa, Anne Finn and Susan Reed, sales representatives; Kathleen Kuss and Elizabeth McIntosh, design. Editorial Assistants: Katherine Piel, Elaine Nobles, Mary O'Brien, Dianne Crawford, Lois Hall, Luella Harlos, Debbie Queen, Diana Gregory and Joanne Young.

As The Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Classified advertising must be received by Monday at noon. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, weddings and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

Subscription rates: in-town \$8 for one year and \$14 for two years; out-of-town \$10 for one year and \$7 for nine months.

Cohasset...Nice To Visit Better To Stay



SERENE SCENE — It's panoramas like this which lure folks to Cohasset and also keeps them

here, as one who knows relates in accompanying epic. (Greg Derr photo)

Editorial

McKinnon's Fall

State Sen. Allan McKinnon (D-Norfolk & Plymouth) has been eliminated from the leadership of the Massachusetts Senate and that is an unfortunate blow for him and the people he represents.

Since arriving in the Senate eight years ago, McKinnon has established himself as an able, hard-working senator whose efforts give dignity to the word "politician." He is a man of unquestioned integrity.

His rise in the Senate, while not meteoric, has been impressive. He had been a committee chairman and last year was appointed assistant majority leader (called majority whip) by former Senate President Kevin Harrington.

With that appointment from Harrington, McKinnon became part of the leadership team and seemed destined to rise from the whip position to majority leader to Senate president.

Majority leaders and Senate presidents in state legislatures are not to be dismissed. Anyone holding the latter post should be considered among the two or three most powerful people in state government, capable of exerting enormous influence. McKinnon would have used that influence well.

The rule in politics is to assume nothing, and we probably should have observed it more closely last year when McKinnon became a part of the leadership. The assumption, hindsight tells us, was far too presumptuous, even for a man such as Allan McKinnon.

He fell from the pyramid this month when William Bulger, the new Senate president, named a new team and eliminated McKinnon's name from the list. Instead, McKinnon received another committee chairmanship which, although important, may fairly be considered a sop under the circumstances.

Aside from hurting McKinnon's own personal fortunes, Bulger, in choosing less able legislators as his lieutenants, revived an unfortunate tradition of leaving the entire South Shore out of the leadership of both branches of the state legislature.

It has been years, perhaps more than a generation, since any legislator from the South Shore has held a leadership position in either the Massachusetts House or Senate and that is important. Those who hold the reins of government, no matter how broad their outlook, always worry about their own constituents first.

With the exception of McKinnon's brief reign as assistant majority leader, the South Shore hasn't been a special concern to anyone in the legislative leadership, and now with Bulger's new team in force, it won't be for years to come. It means less clout in a place where clout counts for a great deal.

McKinnon is still a good man who will continue to exert a positive influence on Beacon Hill. He may even one day return to the leadership. But not for the foreseeable future and that is unfortunate, particularly since his loss is our loss as well.

And The Choice Of Moving Was Easy

By Karin Bartow

Moving to Cohasset was the easiest thing I've ever done.

You can't be too careful when choosing a place to live. And, buying a house, for most of us, is a permanent thing. Considering all the factors that have to be weighed — costs, taxes, location, schools, municipal services, transportation, upkeep of neighborhoods and the town — deciding wasn't as hard as thought it would be.

First of all, Cohasset is a beautiful town. You really can't find fault with the way it looks — anywhere. Even the dump, which is just a dump, but observe the setting. Cohasset is an old town with history, tradition, town characters and heroes. It has beaches, coastline, a harbor, rocky inlets, marshes, woodlands, a village green, and quaint and charming neighborhoods. A critical eye sees that people here take pride in their homes and town.

It became apparent early on that there are never many houses for sale in Cohasset. That makes it harder to find what you want, when you want it. It also indicates that people stay put and that's a good sign they're satisfied residents. (It means as well that mortgage money is tight and houses are expensive!)

My son's nursery school teacher told me when she and her husband went out to see a house, they always took their checkbook! Our real estate agent said that we would be handicapped as so many properties sell by word-of-mouth and never get listed. Somehow we got lucky; I guess it was meant to be!

Something "has to feel right" (or so it is with me), all the fastidious checking and investigating doesn't matter.

A lot of what made Cohasset "feel right" had to do with the townspeople who said things like, "You're going to like it here...great place to raise kids...a nice, friendly town...welcome!"

Cohasset is a nice town to live in. You don't feel new here for long. People always ask, "How do you like it here?" They want to know what you think of their town, and invariably, they'll let you know what they like best (no one's confessed any complaints!)

Curiously, folks also want you to know how long they've been here and unless they're genuine townies, the longer the better. My sense is that the absolute, greatest status symbol in town (if you need one), is to have lived here a long time; or your whole life; or better yet, to trace your ancestry back to the earliest settlers.

I met a woman who has lived here all her married life and, like me, grew up somewhere else. She exclaimed, "You're an outlander, like me!" Pure Yankee tradition weeds the townies from the outlanders; or the locals from the new folks. There may be a difference, but they all live together harmoniously.

A friend once remarked to me, "If you buy an older house, chances are people will say, 'Oh, you live in so-and-so's house'. It's never your house!" When I was explaining to a woman where I live and she didn't recognize the previous owner's name, she asked me to go back a little further. I took it back 100 years and she not only knew the name, the children, grandchildren, but she used to play in the house! I consider that kind of walking history an asset to any town!

Cohasset folks are friendly, but hard to know, maybe. Friendliness is pretty common in a small town; the 'hard to know' is probably Yankee New England; and the maybe is the uncertainty of newness. I was cautioned by one long-time resident to "be careful what you say; it can always come back at you!" My Mother told me that when I was a kid, but it didn't bother me to be reminded that self-censorship is a good thing.

There's a lot of diversity among the people here and in the range of community, school, recreational, and social activities. For a small town, that's important, and it would be sad if Cohasset ever became too homogeneous. Although I'm getting used to it, I'm still surprised to see people I know! After you've lived in big cities, small cities even, the fact that you run into familiar faces here all the time, takes getting used to in a pleasant sort of way.

We used to spend so much of our time "getting away" from where we lived. A lot of energy and resources went into that exercise. Now it's pure pleasure to stay put on weekends and holidays. Having year-round recreation (I'm not a downhill skier!) in your home town is one of the things we like best about Cohasset.

Friends of ours wrote in a 'thank-you-for-dinner-in-your-new-house' note: "Your house is great...the kind of place to establish a dynasty in." If ruling the roost qualifies us for a dynasty, then I hope we establish one here. At least, perhaps, we can put down some family roots. Who knows, maybe if we stay long enough, people may even get to know the gray house with the front porch on Sohler Street as the Bartow's house!

Around Town Hall

TM VOTE NIXED

Town Counsel Blake Thaxter has ruled the vote at the recent special town meeting to appropriate \$65,000 from free cash to install a water main on Route 3A was illegal. The Water Department can't accept money from town funds

unless it is a loan to be paid back.

PRINTING BIDS

Five bids for printing 2600 copies of the town report and 3000 copies of the town meeting warrant were opened last week. Selectmen took the bids under advisement so Town Accountant William Signorelli could review them.